

TOLLESTON "Old-Settlers" Centennial
1851 - 1951

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TOLLESTON "Old-Settlers" Centennial

1851-1951



Price
50¢

THE ANDERSON COMPANY
GARY, INDIANA, U. S. A.

OFFICE OF THE
PRESIDENT

TO THE PEOPLE OF
T O L L E S T O N

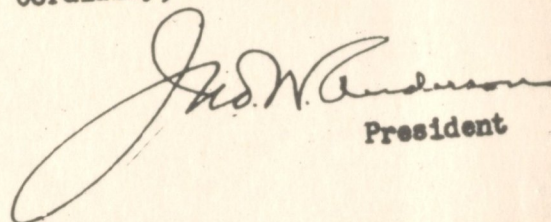
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President

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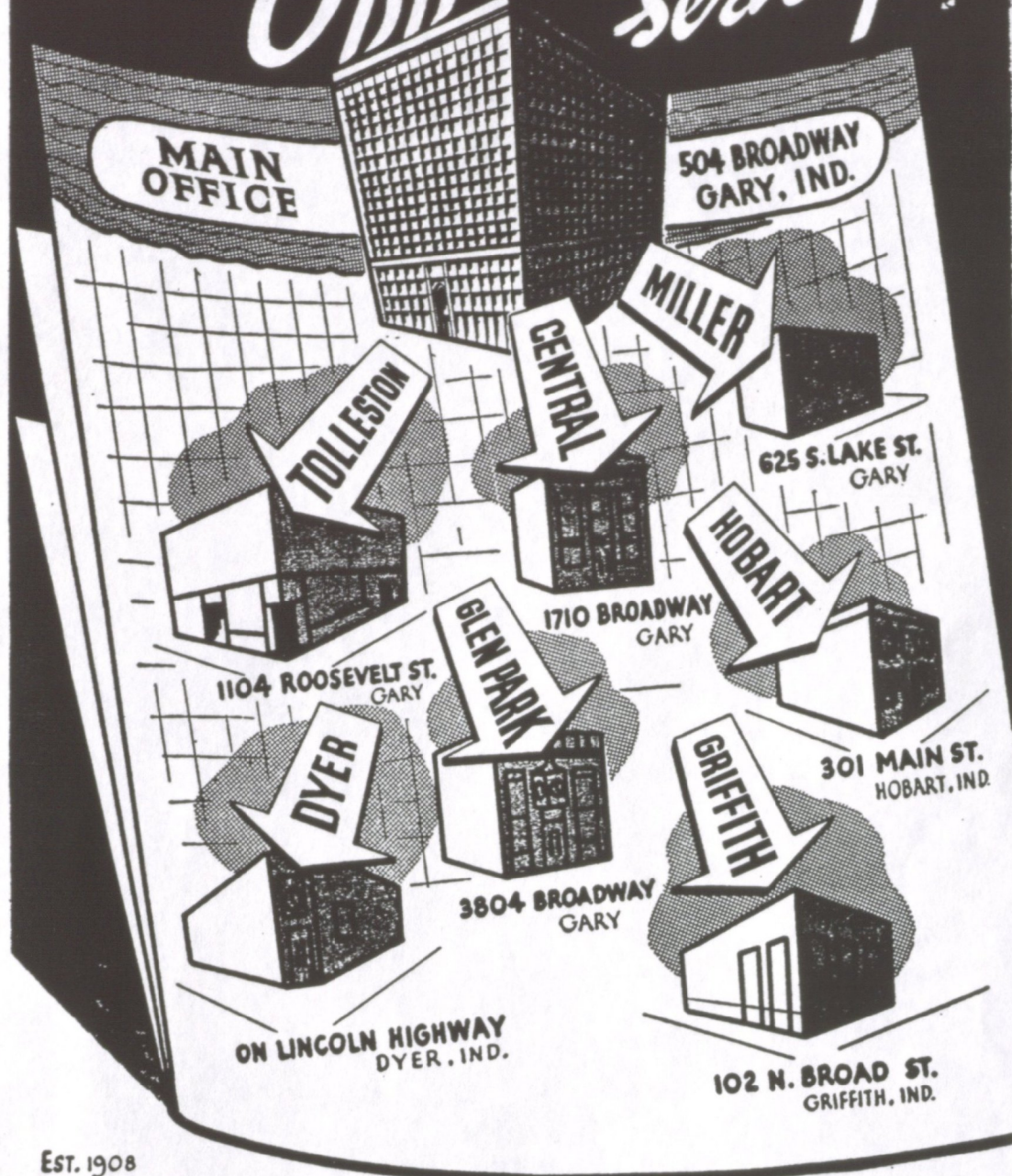
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A Message from the Chairman . . .

We wish to acknowledge and thank the fraternal, business, church and social organizations, and individual persons that have made this Centennial the success that it is. Almost every organization in Tolleston has taken some part in it and has offered its support to this project.

Because this book must go to press before the arrangements for the final events of the pageant and parade have been consummated, we are not able to list the names of all the committees nor of the many citizens and organizations taking part, but we are herewith expressing our appreciation to all who have so splendidly given their assistance.

Our success is the success of the entire community. To each person, organization, and institution participating goes the credit for a truly outstanding example of American co-operative action.

JOHN HOGG, Chairman
TOLLESTON OLD SETTLERS CENTENNIAL

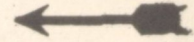


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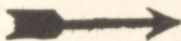
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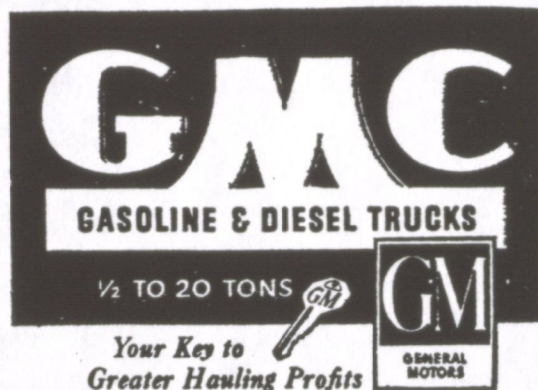
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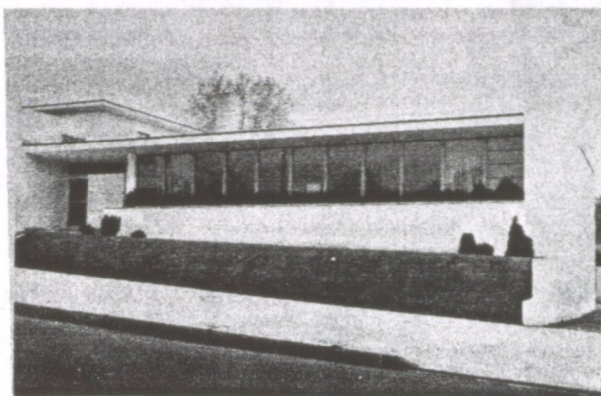


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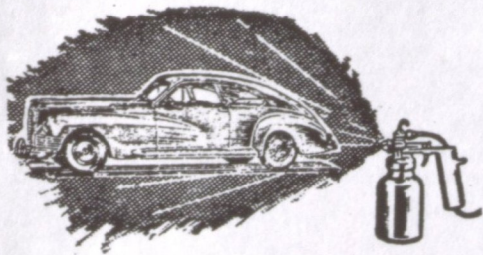
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Salutes The Tolleston Old Settlers

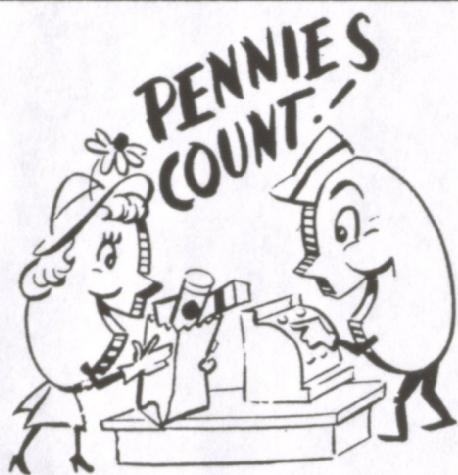




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H. Gordon & Sons

A SALUTE TO TOLLESTON ON ITS 100th ANNIVERSARY CENTURAMA CELEBRATION

We here at Gary Motor Sales salute Tolleston and congratulate it on its completion of 100 years of wonderful progress and solid growth.

For over 20 years of Tolleston's 100 year history, Gary Motor Sales is proud to have been a part of Tolleston and to have had the opportunity to serve the residents of this great community with Ford products.

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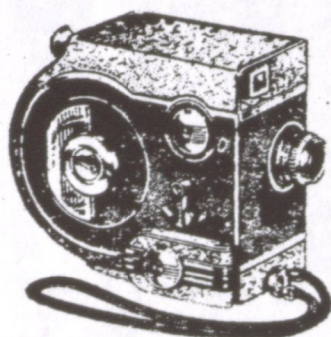
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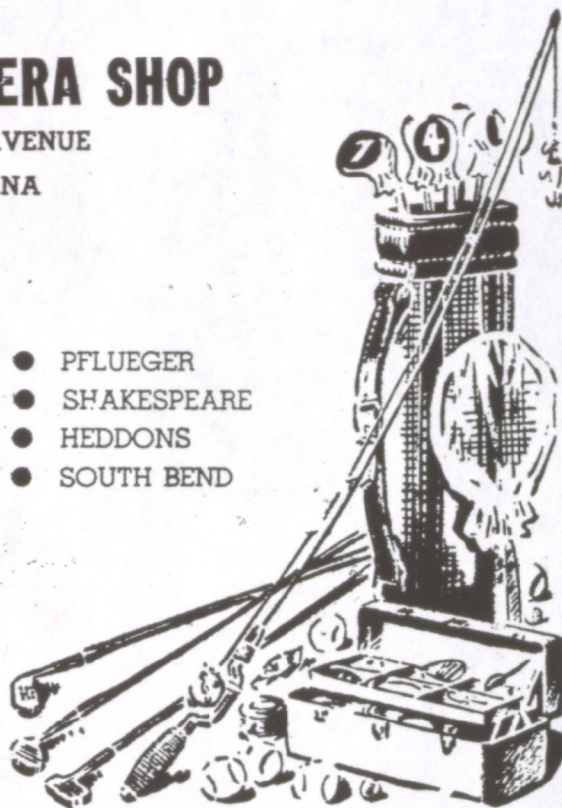
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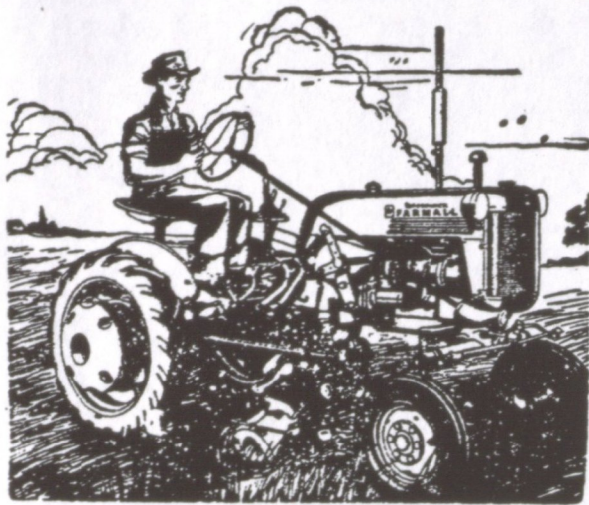
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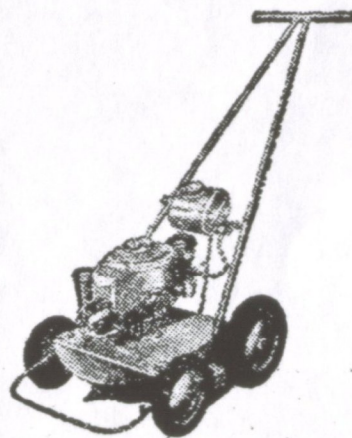


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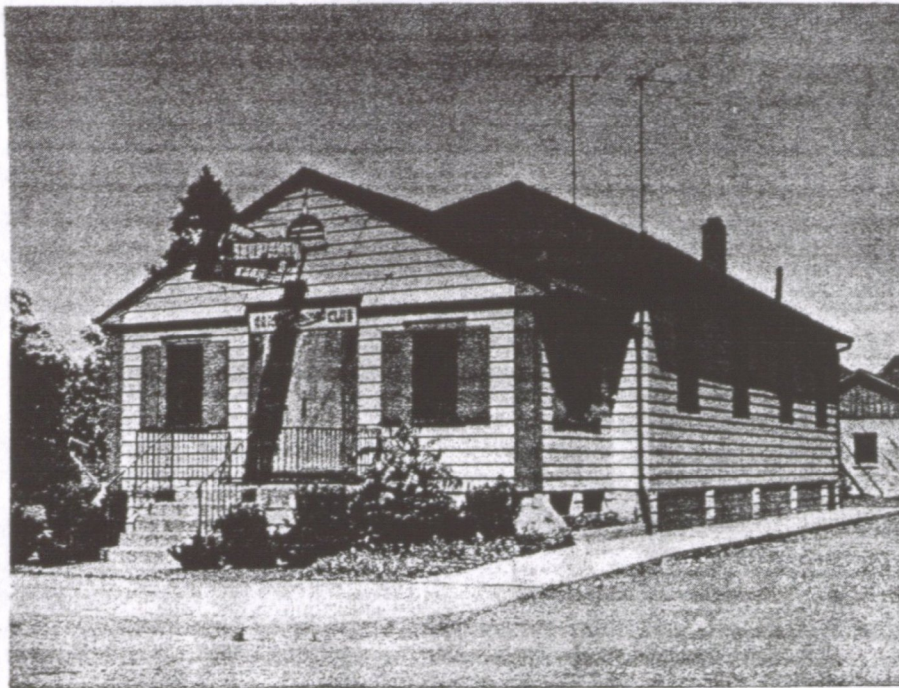


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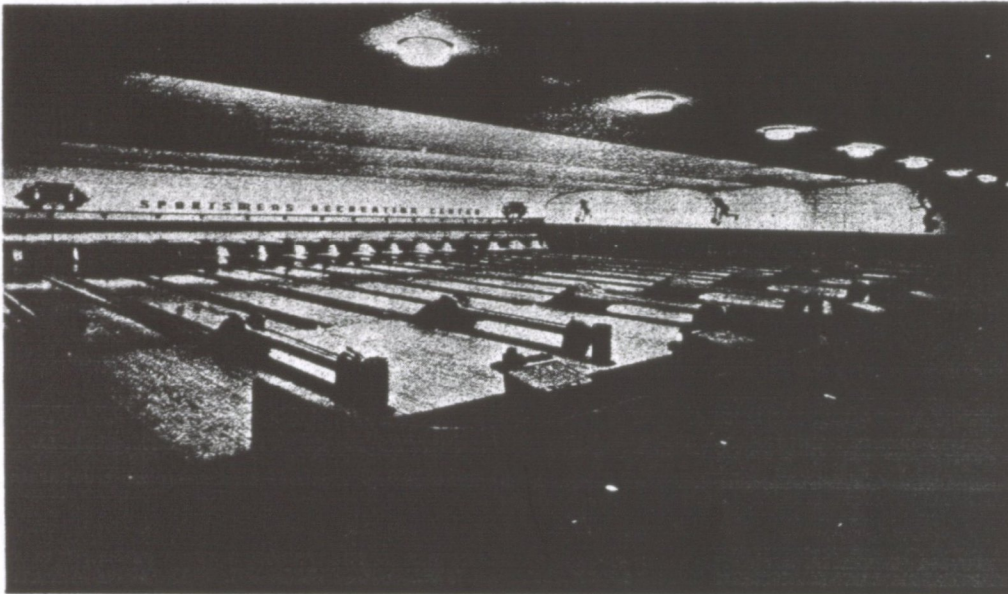


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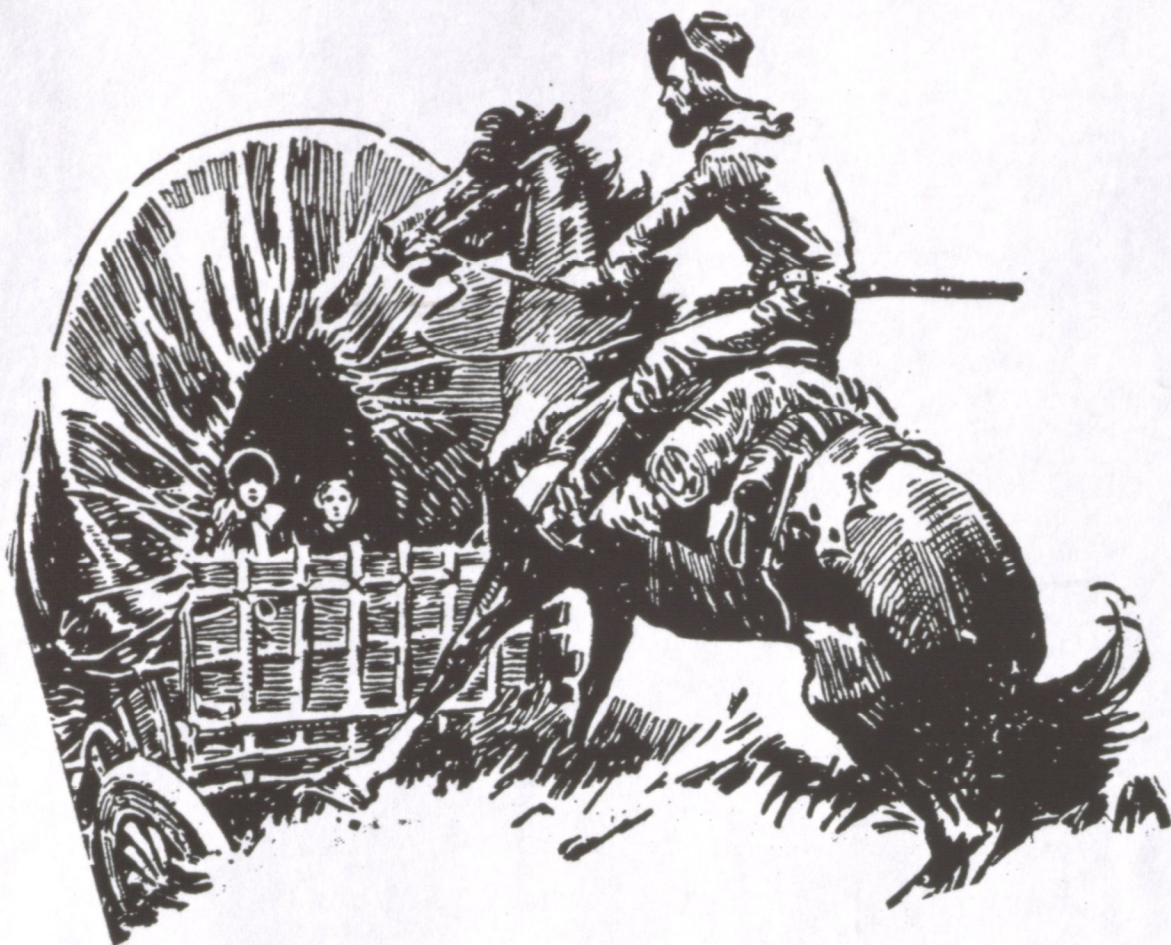
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Early History

— OF THE —

**LAKE REGION AND
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We've Come A Long Way



100 YEARS OLD IN 1951

Early History of Region & Indiana

In the year 1800 Indiana became an organized territory. Before that time it had formed a part of the almost unknown and trackless wilds of the Northwest, slightly explored by some adventurous Frenchmen and penetrated for the purpose of traffic by fur traders. As early as 1679 and 1680 there is evidence that French explores passing along the border and perhaps across the very center of what is now Lake County.

All the land in Lake County was acquired by treaties with the Pottawattomies. In August 1835 the chiefs of the Pottawattomies with their warriors met with the United States Commissioners in the last council to give up five million acres of land in Michigan, Illinois and Indiana and to go west of the Mississippi River to a tract of similar size. Following this council, the Indians started their slow march westward led by their chiefs. Shaubena, Pokagon, Sauganish, (William Caldwell), Chee-Chee-Bing-Way (Alexander Robinson), Ben Ack, Old-Wee-Saw, Ex-Cu-Pucky, Match-Kee, and many others.

The United States donated to the State of Indiana certain portions of government lands within its borders; to be selected in a certain way, which took the name of Swamp Lands. The Legislature passed an act, in May 1852, to regulate the sale of these lands and provide for draining and reclaiming them according to the condition of the grant.

How long the Pottawattomies were in possession of the Lake and Calumet region of Indiana is not known. The many trails which crossed the Lake region of Indiana showed it was frequently visited

by tribes of Indians from other regions, but the Pottawattomies made it their home.

Chee-Chee-Bing-Way (Alexander Robinson) last of the principal chiefs of the Pottawattomies, died near Chicago in 1872 and was said to be more than 100 years old. He was of mixed blood, Indian, French and English and was a contemporary of Joseph Bailey and about 1810 was engaged in the fur and supply trade on the southern shore of Lake Michigan in the employ of John Jacob Astor of New York.

EARLY HISTORY OF TOLLESTON

Just before the outbreak of the Civil War the Indians who lived in this vicinity moved their encampment to another state. This removal was due to the coming of the white people, though some think that the building of the railroad frightened them away. No doubt their removal was due to both causes. At any rate the locality had become unsuitable to their further needs.

The settlement of Tolleston was named after a German, George Tolle. Mr. Tolle came here from Chicago in 1856 and purchased a large tract of land which he tried to induce people to buy and settle. However, the intended buyers could see no future for Tolleston and his real estate "boom" was not very successful.

Tolleston didn't grow very rapidly and the population was about 300 for about twenty-five years or more. A history record of 1870 showed the following: number of families as 80 and population 400 for Tolleston and suburbs. The men for the most part worked on the railroad. The company pay per month was about \$2,000. There were 4 stores, 3 carpenters, 1 blacksmith and 1 shoemaker. It contained a Lu-

theran Church and parsonage, a good school house, and a few miles distant was located the Chicago Gun Club House. This was a neat looking building of wood, near the Calumet River, erected by a company of sportsmen of Chicago who occupied it as a boarding house country seat. The house and grounds had a city-like appearance. Not far west of Tolleston near the crossing of the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railroad and the Calumet River, was said to be the highest sand hill around Lake Michigan.

During the winter months a good number of men worked at Clarke Station cutting ice and preparing same for storing and shipping and in the summer time these men found employment at the Sand Pit, loading the gondolas by hand, this sand was used by railroads elevation fills in Chicago.

Until approximately the year 1905 Tolleston had no physician and people from this area traveled to Hobart or Hammond by horse and buggy or in case of emergency by railroad handcar, for the services of a doctor or dentist.

Approximately five years later on August 31, 1910 Tolleston was annexed to the City of Gary, creating the sixth ward of Gary.

November 3, 1910 Walter Gibson and Anthony Baukus were appointed councilman and councilman-at-large respectively.

ORIGINAL TOWN OF TOLLESTON

Street Names

1st Street now Taft Street
2nd Street now Roosevelt Street
3rd Street now Cleveland Street
4th Street now Garfield Street
Main Street now Grant Street
Crone Street now 11th Avenue
Hart Street now 10th Place
Martha Street now 10th Avenue
Chicago Street now 9th Avenue
Pine Street now Garfield Street
Chestnut Street now Arthur Street

Gibson Inn

Harking back to the late '40's when two horses and a wagon could buy a 40-acre tract of land where Hegewisch now is located, Mrs. Henrietta E. Gibson narrates early settlement days of the Calumet region, as recorded by the Gary Historical Society, and tells how this district and city grew from a wilderness of swamps to a thriving industrial center.

Mrs. Gibson remembers when Indians built their wigwams at the forks of the Grand Calumet and recounts incidents of the days when the stage coach drivers sounded their horns at the signal of their arrival into the settlement towns.

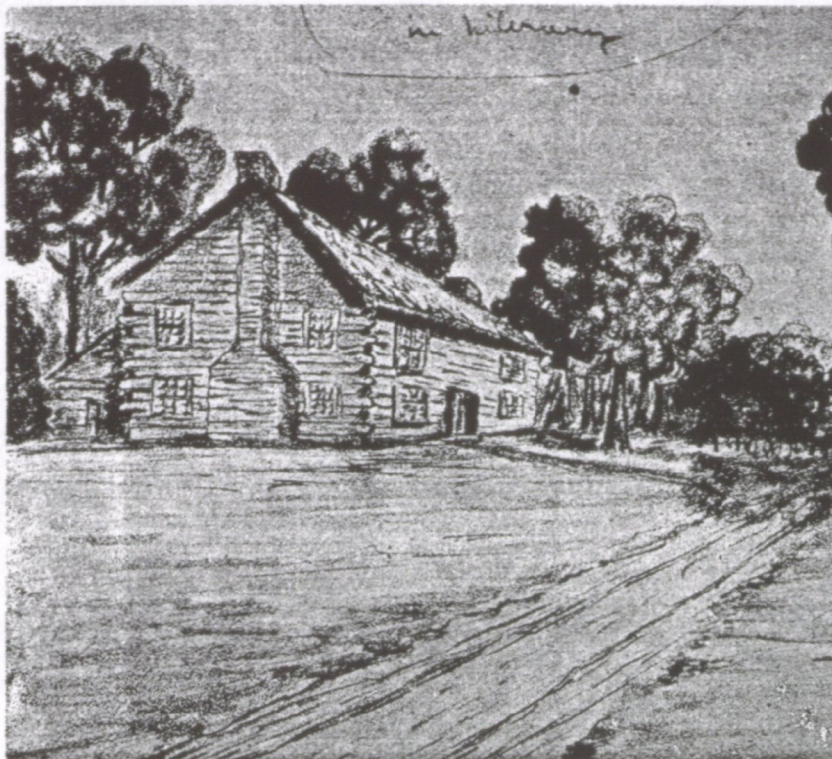
The first house was built on the site of the city of Gary by her mother-in-law, Mrs. Maria Gibson and was affectionately termed "Mother" Gibson's Inn. The stage route then ran from Detroit to Michigan City and thence to Tolleston, which was a regular stopping-off place for the stage drivers, who came to the inn to "get a bite to eat" as the old narrator recalls.

Tolleston, which gave promise of assuming township proportions long before Gary was dreamed of, Mrs. Gibson relates, was a favorite spot with the children who were in search of huckleberries, but with the exception of the Gibson Inn, there were no houses there when she was a little girl.

Mrs. Gibson relates many incidents concerning the pioneer days or more than 70 years ago that will prove interesting to young and old. She tramped every foot of territory in which Gary is located and in her youth, she writes, little did she think that the magnificent city of Gary would today be adorning the hills and swamps of her girlhood days.

Her father bought the James H. Cassidy Inn at the toll bridge in 1850 and also bought the stage house from a Mr. Brumley three years later. That was within a half mile of the Calumet river.

"The drivers of the stage coaches



Sketch of Gibson Inn built about 1838, located at what is now 14th & Madison St. The Old Tolleston Gun Club

always sounded a horn before they came into the settlement. They ran on schedule, so we knew when they would arrive and watched for them. Father would have horses hitched at the barn, or relay station, to enable them to continue the journey to Chicago with fresh animals. The station was on the north side of the river at Hegewisch. George Bunt kept the toll gates there, and charged three cents for each team driven across the river."

"Many Indians were located in this region. The redmen kept their wigwams at the forks of the Grand Calumet, about a half mile south of our house. They were known as the Pottawattomies. Their chief, Shanbonee, often came there on business. He was friendly to the white settlers. My mother often hired the squaws to work about the house, but they would not accept money from us because their husbands would take it from them. My mother, however, would give them flour and eggs. One of them was named Naominequay (meaning Lady Menominee). She

spoke English and was considered good looking. I played with the Indian children a great deal and consequently, acquired a kind of dialect which enabled me to converse with them. Two of my Indian girl friends had English names—Mary and Elizabeth.

"The boys hunted with bows and arrows and the men with old-fashioned guns. Shaubenee, the chief, was a short thick set man and wore long hair. He dressed well in Indian style, including leggings and moccasins, and a blanket in cold weather. His blanket was red and was trimmed with a black border. Most of the blankets were gray. He adorned himself with hoop ear rings. He used to say: "I be Shaubenee—I own the Shaubenee grove." That was the way he introduced himself. On one occasion he brought two Indian girls to our house—I think they were his daughters. They were educated at Notre Dame college, dressed like American girls and were accomplished pianists. He was proud of them and did not want to have them

GIBSON INN (Continued)

raised like other Indian girls. They always traveled home by the stage.

"The Indians always moved to the straits of Mackinac in the summer. They were lazy and did nothing but hunt and fish. They were all Catholics. We would hear them worshipping in the morning. I often visited their wigwams in the company with my father. The squaws made baskets, moccasins and miniature canoes of birch bark. They ornamented their articles with the aid of porcupine quills. They drew floral designs on the sides of canoes and stained them with the juice of berries.

"Most of them departed from this region in 1862 as Tolleston was becoming a white settlement and the white men were crowding them out. Father sold the stage then to Dr. Egan of Chicago.

"I was married in 1860 and moved to Tolleston. My husband was the first station agent there. After moving there I saw an encampment of Indians in Gary, or where Gary now stands, on the edge of the Calumet marsh at 25th Avenue, south of the Michigan Central railroad and just north of the Pennsylvania railroad. I saw some of the Indians we had known at Hegewisch and often encountered Shaubensee there. One day when I was there the Indians were cooking quartered muskrat and yellow hard corn in a big kettle that looked like a soup kettle. It was in the open. They had sticks set up, with one across on which they hung the kettle. They dipped the stuff out with a kind of wooden spoon, and offered me some of the soup. I didn't want to take it, but tried it to please them. I didn't like it for they did not use any salt or seasoning. The encampment was in a valley at the base of a large dune called Coupe-con. Con Sheffler afterward removed the dune and found the skeleton of an Indian which he gave to the Tolleston School.

"I was born in Hamilton, Can., September 18, 1844. My father's name was David Combs. He was born in Erie, N. Y. and was a manufacturer of cloth. I have one

brother Major George W. Combs of Glencoe, Ill. Our family came by way of Detroit to Chicago in 1846 and to Ainsworth station, now called South Chicago, February 27, 1850. There was only one building there. That was the depot and Spears was the name of the agent. Father traded two horses and a wagon and harness for 40 acres of land on the present site of Hegewisch. That part of the country was called the Calumet Region. It was nothing but a wilderness of swamps and the government sold land for \$1.25 an acre. Our farm was located where the U. S. Rolling Stock Company's factory now stands at Hegewisch.

"We were intimately acquainted with the Jow Bailly family. I used to play with Rose and 'Frankie' We visited each other frequently. They were part Indian and were pretty girls and well educated. Their grandmother was a full-blooded Indian. She lived alone in a hut, and wore the usual Indian apparel—broadcloth skirt, leggings and a shawl. She was swarthy and had straight, black hair and was rather nice looking. Most of the Indians had clean-cut features. A half-breed, French and Indian, resided near them with the Indians. His name was Jean Baptiste Cloochie. We called him 'Clookie.' C. D. Wicker, a Chicago man, married one of the Bailly girls, and taking a fancy to the half-breed, arranged to have him stay with my mother-in-law at the Gibson Inn, a mile or two east of Tolleston. He resided there for 20 years and died at the age of 90, being buried at Tolleston. That was in 1864. He was a fine old fellow and everyone liked him. The Indians were nice to you if you were nice to them, but it didn't do to anger them.

"Ernest Hohman married an English woman and kept a stage where Hammond stands. It was north of the river. Gibson station, near there, was named after my father-in-law's brother. He owned a farm between Gibson and Hammond.

"George Tolle, a manufacturer

of surgical instruments, who invested in considerable land in this locality, built a house near Lewis A. Bryan's place.

"My mother-in-law, Annie Marie Gibson, kept a stage house where the Froebel school building is located. It was called the Gibson Inn. She went there in 1837 and her husband, Thomas, built the inn in that year or the year following. He came from Columbus, Ohio in 1835. The hotel was a two-story, hewn log building, built on a 40-acre tract of land. It faced east on the old wagon road, somewhere in the vicinity of Madison Street, as near as I can remember, and was a little northeast of the Froebel School building. The inn was close to the Gibson run, a small creek, and there was another small stream near there. No other buildings were nearer than those at Miller station and Tolleston. They sold out during the stockyard boom. The tavern was torn down shortly after 1861.

"The stage route ran from Detroit to Michigan City and from Michigan City to Gary or where Gary now is located, and thence to Chicago. The drivers would come from Michigan City to 'Mother' Gibson's Inn—they called mother-in-law 'mother.' They generally had dinner there, then came to our place at Hegewisch for supper and after to the Five Mile House, near Douglas monument, which was then called Chicago. The stage crossed the Michigan Central railroad near the location of Madison street in Gary and then ran to Hammond. Four and sometimes six horses were used on the stage coaches.

"I picked the huckleberries around the locality of Tolleston when there were no houses there except the Gibson Inn. We resided in a two-story house across from where the Tolleston station stands (since torn down, located at Garfield and the Michigan and Pennsylvania railroad crossings). My husband received \$50 a month, wood for heating, light and rent, as station agent for the

GIBSON INN (Continued)

Pennsylvania and Michigan Central railroad. Lewis Kanethe came out in 1858 and started a little grocery store at Tolleston. Then Charles Kunert and George Wendt arrived. Kunert bought and sold huckleberries and made considerable money out of this business.

"I have caught pickerel and black bass where the Gary Hotel stands. There was a slough, or swamp there which was fed by a stream from Long Lake near Miller. It didn't cost much to live then. We had fresh milk, butter and cream, cranberries, wild honey and mallards and other game.

"In the early part of 1865 I had company at Tolleston and had cooked potatoes for dinner. I placed the parings in a pail and set it on a bench at the rear of the house. Presently, we heard something pumping and knocking against the side of the house, and I went out to see what was the matter. A deer had been attracted to the salt in the potatoes and had put its head in the bucket to get at them. Its horns got caught in the pail and it started to run with the pail sticking on its horns. It jumped the fence and ran for the woods, getting rid of the encumbrance. My husband started after him with a gun and soon returned with the dead deer.

"As late as 1865 my husband took a vacation from the railroad and hunted deer from September until the following April. In that period he shot 18 deer. They were all killed in the dunes where Gary now stands. He showed me where he killed one where the Lake Shore station was erected. He killed the last deer in 1880 on this side of Michigan City. It happened to be on a Thanksgiving day, and it seemed that everyone wanted to see the deer. He sold it to Mr. Brinkman, a market man, and he gave it to the state. The head is mounted at Indianapolis. A plate is attached to it bearing an inscription, telling when and where it was killed.

"I don't think there is a foot

of ground around here that I have not tramped over to pick huckleberries and little did I think that such a fine city as Gary would ever be built on those hills and swamps."

Mrs. Henrietta E. Gibson died at the age of 87 on March 20, 1932.

Anna Marie Gibson, who with her husband ran the Gibson Inn at 14th and Madison, was a little Irish woman born in Belfast in 1813 and who at her death left the memory of a woman who was efficient, who dealt honestly with both red man and white and who gave full measure of service to her family, her neighbors and the public. Her body lies in the Tolleston cemetery, not far from the site of the old historic Gibson Inn.

GIBSON INN

*We picture a wonderful forest
That was dusky and dim and
old;
Whose carpet of green, mossy
velvet,
The sunshine had dotted with
gold.*

*Where the bloom of wild crab and
hawthorn
Filled with perfume the summer
breeze,
And a clear, narrow stream wound
slowly
Past thickets and wide spreading
trees.*

*We gaze on this beautiful vision
Through the mists of long
vanished years
And see in dim, shadowy outline,
The home of our first pioneers.*

*It was only a rude log cabin
By the Fort Dearborn trail
that led west;
But the hunter found there kind
welcome,
And Way-weary travelers found
rest.*

*The bright light that beamed from
its window
Like the kindly smile of a
friend,*

*Cheered the weary, belated
traveler,
For it shone at his journey's
end.*

*But gone is the beautiful forest,
Gone the inn with its wealth
of cheer,
Gone the traveler who there found
shelter,
Gone hunter and brave pioneer.*

*Over cool nooks and green,
grassy byways,
The trail and the clear winding
stream
Are built a city's broad highways
And those beauties are now but
a dream.
But we pause midst the city's
turmoil,
The hurry and bustle and din,
To sigh for the peace and the
quiet
Of the days of Old Gibson
Inn.*

GIBSON INN

Operated by Thomas and
Annie Marie Gibson

Prior to 1830, travel to and from the east and central west was intermittent. For years, a motley lot of voyagers had followed the trail along the southern shore of Lake Michigan. Were it possible to reproduce the beach scenes of those days a panoramic view would include the following: a solitary brave paddling his birch canoe along the shallow waters, a venturesome fur trader stumbling under his pack of furs and trinkets, groups of painted Indian Warriors riding on spotted ponies, and followed by heavily burdened woman and wide-eyed children, Mounted Officers in British, French, Spanish or American uniforms, leading bodies of jaded soldiers, trains of covered wagons drawn by swaying oxen and guarded by weather beaten men in slouch hats and home-spun clothing.

About 1833 a company composed of three men, Hart, Steel, and Sprague, started to operate a stage line between Detroit and Chicago. Shortly afterwards, stage

GIBSON INN (Continued)

owners opened a route farther south and still later opened new routes, the most popular of which was the one following the old Pottowattomie trail through Michigan City. Many miles of the new "Dunes Highway" are now built over that trail. In the late '30's, thousands of passengers were being carried by stage across the south shore region and travel steadily increased until 1850, when the Michigan Central Railroad was constructed.

The time extending from 1833 to 1850 might be termed "The Stage-coach Period." During that period numerous taverns were opened in both Lake and Porter counties.

Gibson Inn, one of the first taverns in Lake County and the first white man's dwelling on the site of Gary, was erected in 1838 at what is now the corner of Madison and Fourteenth Avenue, directly opposite Froebel School. It was a two-story hewn log building with two lone rooms on the second floor which was curtained off by flowered goods similar to cretonne and providing space for high-post hardwood beds. There was a lean-to at the

rear of the building where men could congregate.

The claim on which the building stood contained forty acres and is described in the county record as "The S.E. one-fourth of the N.E. one-fourth of Section 9-36-8," and was not recorded for many years after the building was erected.

Today much of the forty acres which comprise the Gibson Farm is used for Froebel School, and residences and flat buildings stand where once was a door yard of the stage house, while paved streets and automobiles have supplanted the old trail which turned north around the Inn and the lumbering stage coach, whose coming was announced by its echoing horn calling for the relay horses to continue the journey.

A MENU AT THE GIBSON HOUSE 1856

Pork	Pheasant
Quail	Prairie Chicken
Buckwheat Cakes with Maple Syrup	
Bread and Butter	Honey
Tea	Milk
Charge 25c	
Lodging was 50c a night.	

PIONER LIFE IN CALUMET REGION

The life of the pioneer and his family in the lake region was one of substrained inconvenience and even hardship. Oxen were almost an essential in hauling. The roads were impassable at times and as they became quickly worn the routes had to be frequently changed, and as long trips had to be made to get many needed supplies, annoyance and even sufferings were many times endured before the wants of the settler were relieved. In the prairie districts the matter of clearing the ground for cultivation was comparatively an easy matter, but where the land was covered with a growth of timber the preliminary labor involved in some places took a considerable period of time. There was a generous spirit of cooperation among neighboring settlers, the rich sharing with the poor, and mutual assistance was an established custom.

Settlers came for miles to assist a newcomer in preparing a clearing in the timber for his home and helping him to erect a log cabin which, when properly built, was a comfortable habitation during the severe winters. The door in the cabins was usually hung on wooden or leather hinges and provided with a wooden latch, to which was attached a string which ran through a small hole in the door.

As there was very little money in circulation, it was the custom among the settlers to trade the products of their farm at the trading center or store for other goods needed. It also became the custom to exchange work and sometimes an entire neighborhood would go from house to house taking care of the corn crop, laying in the supply of winter field, and joining in wood chopping and corn husking.

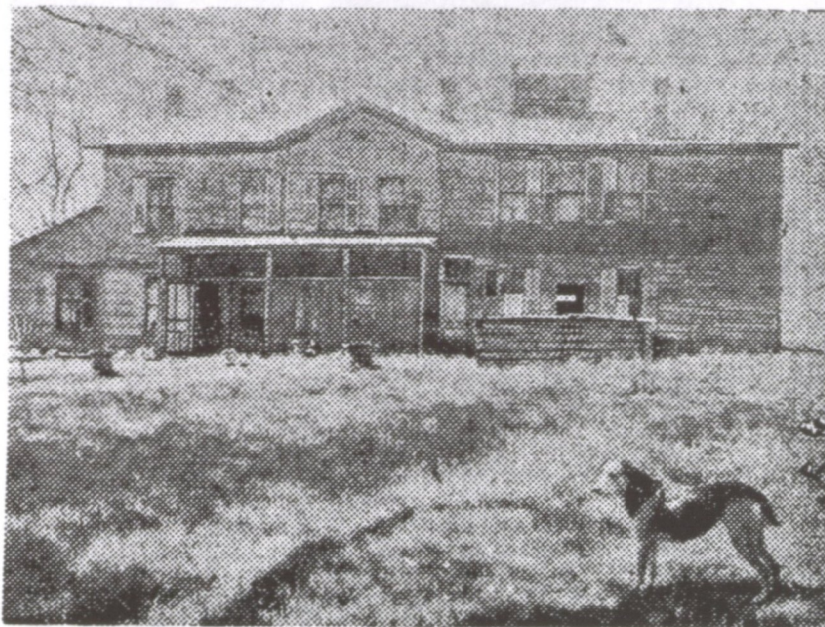
The spinning wheel and loom were to be found in almost every house-hold. Nearly every settler kept a few sheep or obtained wool from his neighbor which was dyed with indigo or native bark and



PIONEER LIFE (Continued)

woven into cloth. Homespun or handmade clothing was the rule, "Store clothing" being extremely rare. Light was furnished by tallow candles although many settlers had to depend upon the open fire for light. The open air life and labor of the settlers gave them great endurance qualities

and their sports were of an outdoor character like foot-racing, wrestling, pitching horseshoes and shooting matches. Dancing was frequently indulged in and a "house-raising" was followed by a "house warming," with a good meal, and a few hours spent in dancing the Minuet or Virginia Reel.



Tolleston Gun Club

The Tolleston Gun Club of Chicago which was organized about 1868 until 1906, was composed of wealthy business men and leaders in finance and industry, who secured control of several thousand acres of marsh land on the Little Calumet with a frontage of six miles from Black Oak to Liverpool. Among those who enjoyed its membership and privileges was John W. Gates, who controlled the Illinois Steel Co. and little did that financial magnate realize that the company which he had made such a successful institution, would within thirty years under new ownership, have one of the finest steel plants in the world, within almost a stone throw of the place he was enjoying hunting and fishing plea-

tures. During high water, the Little Calumet at the grounds of the Tolleston Gun Club, was frequently a mile wide and resembled a lake more than a river. It was one of the most favored sections on the stream for hunting and fishing and the club went to almost unbelievable extremes to protect themselves from poachers.

Through the courtesy of James W. Lester, president of the Gary Historical Society, who has gathered for preservation the story of the eventful period covering the operations of the Gun Club on the Little Calumet, we are privileged to record in this history a few of the incidents which show the bitterness and strife which existed between the Gun Club and the inhabitants of the Little Calumet region. It is a story of special privilege, which was resented by every farmer, trapper, hunter and fisher long accustomed to the freedom of the wilderness, and the

attempt to deny them rights which they had always enjoyed, brought twenty years of bitter feud with a crimson record of assaults, murders, attempted assassinations and mysterious deaths.

The pioneers who opened the territory to settlement and their children, refused to recognize any rules and regulations made by a "foreign" hunting club, made up of Marshall Field, the Kinseys, the Hubbards, etc., of Chicago, which permitted the killing for sport but denied the poor man a brace of ducks for his table. The game wardens employed by the club to keep trespassers from the marshes, from the start met resistance from the natives, who for fifty years had enjoyed without restriction the privileges of hunting, fishing and trapping and to many of them these privileges were a source of revenue to maintain themselves and their families during the winter and early spring. It was an everyday duty for the game wardens in the employ of the club, to patrol the waters and marshes and take from hunters their fire arms and boats, and if resistance was offered, a few blows with brass knuckles were added, which rough tactics were materially effective in maintaining the hunting and fishing monopoly in the hands of the club. When redress was sought in the courts by hunters and trappers against the club for the assaults upon them, the suits were usually adjusted by the payment of small sums or continued so long in court that witnesses or the complainants died which disposed of the charges.

These coercive methods had no effect on some of the natives or on many visiting sportsmen from Chicago and other cities who were not members of the club, so the club watchers resorted to extreme violence and assaults became a common occurrence. Many times the game wardens and watchers attempted violence on some of the hunters who were well able to take care of themselves, with the result that many of the club watchers found their jobs too strenuous and quit the club service.

GUN CLUB (Continued)

It is impossible to give in detail an account of the many assaults and murders, which occurred from the club reign over this section of the marsh land. The ones which attracted the greatest public attention were the assaults on Dr. R. A. Norris, William Dale, Charles Seydel, and Commissioner Larre: the shooting of Arthur Morton and the battle between farmer and watchmen in which Blackburn, Costick, Protz, Bothwell and others were injured. The club watchers and wardens, however, did not wholly escape retaliation. Game wardens, Whitelock, Traeger and Richard Smith were shot and watchmen Clery and Conroy assaulted Albert Looker in a pool room as a preliminary to arresting him for poaching, and as he was resisting them effectively they drew their guns, but Looker killed them both.

He was immediately arrested and charged with murder and the next day Charles Seydel of East Gary, previously mentioned for the dangerous assault committed upon him by Conroy, went to the court with a stocking filled with money and laid it on the clerk's desk to give bond for Looker and the bond was accepted. In view of the circumstances connected with the deaths, Looker was released but Conroy's brothers determined upon his death. Looker who had been warned of the danger killed one of them in Chicago and then went to Texas where another brother followed. Finding Looker in a saloon he drew his gun and said, "Looker, your time has come." Looker replied, "You have got me, but let me write a note to my folks and tell them where I was killed." He reached into his inside pocket as if for a note book or paper and shot through his coat instantly killing the third of the Conroys.

The feud between the natives and the gun club attracted wide attention and kept coroners, surgeons and the courts busy for many years. A bill to prevent fur-

ther trouble and in the interest of the inhabitants of the Little Calumet territory was introduced into the Indiana legislature which would make it lawful to hunt in marsh land without the consent of the owner. This measure took away from the land owner the right to forbid trespassing on his holdings providing it was not under cultivation, and as would be expected, it was a very popular measure in the Little Calumet region and some other sections of Indiana.

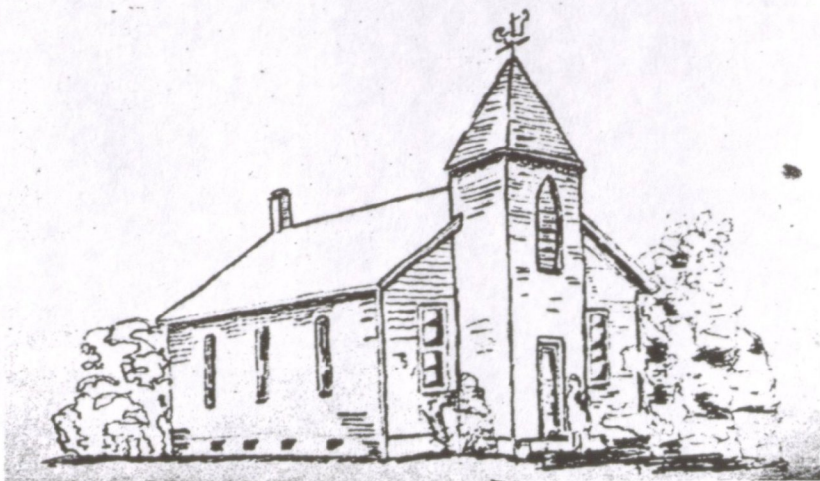
One of the most daring of the poachers who resisted the monopoly of the Tolleston Gun Club for years was John Nimitz who was denounced by the club as one of the worst game thieves they had to contend with and who battled with them repeatedly in and out of court. At an early stage the club wardens forcibly took his gun from him and for so doing settled through court proceedings by the payment of \$500. On one occasion Nimitz spent two weeks trapping in the gun club section of marshes and obtained an average of one hundred muskrats a night. One winter he secured eight mink. The sinking of his boats and the seizing of his traps, were frequent annoyances suffered by Nimitz, but he was not to be deterred. One of the club watchers, Willard West, tried Nimitz's nerve with a shot gun and Nimitz replied with both barrels and drove West into the security of the club house. Once he was captured by the club forces and locked into one of their out-buildings from which he soon escaped and the same day was again shooting mink as ever.

On another occasion, one of the club wardens with a deputy sheriff entered a lawyer's office where Nimitz and his father were seated, and while holding revolvers to their heads, handcuffed them. The father and son were forcibly taken to the Gun Club grounds where they were detained in the warden's quarters and handcuffed to a bedstead. They were later brought to court to face numerous charges

but the court dismissed the case and set them at liberty. Once Jim Conroy, a club watcher, shot at Nimitz and his brother, Henry, in the swamp. Nimitz drew his revolver and started after Conroy who disappeared. The next day Conroy found Nimitz in the marshes and drew his gun on him. Conroy who was a big man approached Nimitz, intending to beat him with brass knuckles but fortunately for Nimitz, Conroy lowered his gun and Nimitz immediately drew his own revolver and forced Conroy at the point of the gun to return to the club house.

It was outrages such as this that incensed the natives to the highest degree and, when imported sluggers were brought from Chicago to inflict physical violence on the local hunters as frequently happened, Nimitz decided to become a constable and, while acting as such, it became his duty to arrest Conroy who with some others had severely beaten three local hunters. Obtaining a warrant Nimitz went after the sluggers. He finally secured Conroy for appearance in court, but the others had fled. In another instance he was able to secure service in a local suit on the president of the club, a difficult thing to do, and this greatly incensed the club members who heretofore had been able to avoid service. They began to fear Nimitz who was beyond their control and who, they knew, had good reasons for a noncompromising attitude toward them.

About this time as a good opportunity appeared, Nimitz decided to engage in business and quit the Little Calumet marshes and his position as court official. He will always be remembered as one of the most daring of the poachers, who, not even repeated assaults or attempted assassination would deter from hunting or fishing in the marshes, which had been a common privilege enjoyed by all the inhabitants of the Little Calumet River region from the period of earliest settlement until the reign of the Tolleston Gun Club.



Old print of the first St. John's Lutheran Church Building, 1868.

ST. JOHNS LUTHERAN CHURCH OF TOLLESTON, IND.

The old settlers of Tolleston were, with few exceptions, German Lutherans. The first pastor, to conduct divine services, was the great missionary pioneer, Dr. H. Wunder, then pastor of First St. Pauls Lutheran Church in Chicago. He came to serve some of his members, who had moved to Tolleston in the late 50's and early 60's. Later he provided other pastors for them, who served at regular intervals: Pastor C. Meyer from Kankakee, Pastor C. Moll, pastor in Dolton from 1864-1866, and Pastor Raushert, pastor in Dolton, from 1866 to 1882.

When Mr. Tolle platted the Town of Tolleston, he set aside Lots 7, 8, 9 and 10 in Block 25 for church purposes. Here on Lot 10 the first church was built in 1868 or '69. Mr. Tolle also donated one acre of ground for a cemetery. This was dedicated by the Rev. Dr. Wunder and is today known as "Waldheim Cemetery" and located at 20th and Pierce.

The first meetings of a church organization were held in the Township School at 1925 W. 10th Place. This building was later bought by John Miller in 1868. Part of the building is still standing to-day. The first records found

were those of a meeting held Oct. 20, 1870, signed by: William Boll, Secretary, August Doepel, Ludwig Scheunemann.

In 1871, Rev. Herman Wunderlich, then stationed at Tinley Park, Ill., was called to the Tolleston pastorate and long before Gary was ever dreamed of the little church at Tolleston became known as the center of Christianity in that sparsely settled territory.

The congregation was incorporated under the name "The Evangelical Lutheran St. Johns Congregation of Tolleston, Lake Co., Ind." recorded at Recorder's Office at Crown Point, Ind. Nov. 8 of 1878.

In the same year a new tower was erected on the church and a bell purchased, the latter still doing service today.

Pastor Wunderlich organized a parochial school in 1885. Having no building, the township trustee permitted the pastor to use the extra room in the public school. Here he taught, assisted by his son, Theodore, besides serving his congregation and three other preaching stations. Pastor Wunderlich died at the age of 47 years and was buried at Waldheim.

Pastor Wunderlich was succeeded by Pastor A. Rump. He was ordained and installed July 28, 1887. With the grace of God he

was permitted to serve St. Johns fifty-three years. He saw the little settlement of Tolleston become lost in the heart of greater Gary and the wonderful rise of the industrial city from the sandy marsh land of obscurity.

In 1888 the old church was moved to the rear of the lot and converted into a school. A new church was erected, now referred to as the second church. The second tower of the first church however remained. (It might be of interest to know that the first tower of the first church was placed on the public school on 10th Avenue. Later that same tower was placed on the Luther School and this building again later became the home of Dr. Martin Luther Church on 17th and Polk street, which, until recently served its purpose as a church).

Pastor Rump taught school for four years. In 1891 the congregation called Mr. J. W. Dunkel from the seminary in Addison, Ill. Because of increased enrollment Miss Bertha Weyhe was engaged to teach grades 1-3 in 1899. At first the primary classes were held in the vestry of the church. When in 1901 the enrollment had again increased the congregation purchased the frame Public School building in Clark Station, moved it to the church property in Tolleston and remodeled it for the then called "Kleine schule" (small school).

In 1904 Mr. Dunkel resigned because of ill health. The same year Mr. Theodore Kosche from Youngstown, Ohio was installed as teacher of the school. The congregation was privileged to have him with them until a few years ago, when the Lord took him home after having served faithfully for almost a half century.

The year 1914 was a time of rejoicing for St. Johns, for on the 6th of September the new school building at 10th Place and Taft street was dedicated.

In 1918 Pastor P. F. Golterman was called as assistant pastor. He served until 1920 when he accepted a call to Hessville, where he is still pastor.

ST. JOHN'S (Continued)

October 14, 1923 was another day of rejoicing, for on that day a new church building was dedicated, this being the third one within a century, and is today St. Johns Lutheran Church at 10th Avenue and Taft Street.

The pastors and teachers serving at the school were as follows:

1885-1886 Pastor Wunderlich
1887-1891 Pastor Rump
1891-1912 Mr. J. W. Dunkel
1899-1912 Miss Bertha Weyhe
1904-1948 Mr. Theo. M. Kosche, Principal

Those serving in primary and intermediate grades from 1912-1949 at various times were: Pastor P. F. Golterman, Mrs. Renate Meyrer (Mrs. Martin Findling), Miss Thekla Noll, Mr. A. Heldt, Mr. A. Oberman, Mr. J. Klaus-ing, Miss E. Scheiderer, Dr. P. W. Lange, Rev. Martin Kosche, Mr. C. A. Wolter and Miss Ida Rump. Since 1949 the school has been under the able leadership of Mr. H. Hilbig, Principal.

In 1938 Rev. C. A. Baumgartel, was called as assistant pastor. Pastor Rump began ailing early in 1940 and preached his last sermon at the funeral of Edwin P. Galster. On March 26, 1940 he was called home and buried March 29th, 1940 at Waldheim Cemetery.

Rev. C. A. Baumgartel succeeded Rev. Rump and served until 1947 when he accepted a call to Baldwin Park, California. The present pastor, the Rev. G. H. Naumann was installed in December 1947.

Thus ends a century of God's blessing for the church and community of "Dear Old Tolleston."

Baptisms — Marriages and Burials

(As Found in Records)

BURIALS

Sophie Sommer, born Feb. 6, 1859, died Sept. 6, 1865.

Jacob Sommer, born Aug. 25, 1814, died Dec. 28, 1868.

Johanna Friedericke Rimbach (nee Borman) Came from Hanover, Germany. Married in '62 and died Feb. 23rd., 1870. Died of measles and buried in Waldheim Cemetery.

FIRST MARRIAGE RECORD

Oct. 1871 United Albert Heise and Carolina Pape. H. Wunderlich solemnized the marriage.

FIRST COMPLETE RECORD OF CHILD BAPTIZED

Franz Friedrich Schwingendorf, born April 8, 1863. Baptized Nov. 15, 1863 by Pastor Meyer.

There are records of 13 children before this one, but one page is missing, so they are incomplete.

ROMANIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

The date of the organization of the Roumanian Orthodox Church must begin with the year 1908. On this date, October 11, 1908, a small group of religious Roumanians laid plans to erect a church at 1949-59 Hayes street. In this group were Jacob G. Poppa, John Ganea, John Barbat, John Steblea, Nichita Stoica, Michalca Maftai and Eli Aldea. These men worked with zeal toward their goal and at the second meeting the following men joined them in the purpose of raising funds to build the church. The names of this second group are as follows; Partine Morar, Nicolae Vasile, John Manta, Ylie Stoin and Vasile Magurean.

"The Descent of The Holy Ghost" was the name bestowed upon this church. Not having a local pastor, the first to serve this congregation was the Rev. Simion Mihaltian of Indiana Harbor, until the year 1911 when the Rev. Theodosie Nica was called to the parish.

Due to the fact that plans for the city of Gary were laid elsewhere and the majority of the Roumanian people had settled in the Broadway districts, in 1916 the church was moved to its present location at 12th and Madison street, where the rectory is also located.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

In 1906 the board of national missions of the Presbyterian Church sent Rev. H. M. Houser to Tolleston to organize a mission Sunday school. It was from this nucleus that the Westminster Church was founded. On May 9, 1910, thirty-seven charter members gathered in the building at the corner of 12th and Roosevelt. They elected J. F. Jameson, J. B. Sleezer and J. O. James elders of the new church. Five trustees were also elected—Dr. Franklin Petry, William H. Welter, John Q. James, Howard Neff and Rob-



WESTMINISTER (Continued)

ert Laughlin. The Sunday School outgrew the building facilities and moved to 13th and Roosevelt. From there the church was moved to the present site—12th and Rutledge. The building was erected in 1912. Rev. Edgar Green was the first pastor. Other pastors were A. H. Adkins, now pastor of Crown Point Presbyterian Church. Rev. Hutchin, Rev. Harley Stockham and the present pastor Rev. Newton Fowler. The church now has 300 members. There are many youth activities in the church including troops of Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts and Brownies. Also a junior and senior choir. There are also Lydia Circle, Ruth Circle and Alpha Cara, which are woman's associations.

TOLLESTON CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The Tolleston Christian Church had its beginning about the year 1910, holding its first services in the Beveridge School. Brother Nelson Trimble and his wife who served this little congregation, were both preachers and Mrs. Trimble did most of the preaching here while Mr. Trimble served in other fields near by, assisting at times in pastoral duties here.

Feeling the need for a church in which to meet, the membership with the help of the men in the community built the first Tolleston Christian Church, a frame structure, in a day and held services in it that same night.

In 1919, as the congregation had grown, this building was moved away and a stucco building started, but due to financial conditions after World War 1, the building was not completed and the congregation met in the basement. However, plans were made and materialized in that a beautiful new edifice was dedicated April 4, 1948 at 11th Avenue and Wallace Street. The present membership now exceeds 200 with a Sunday School enrollment of 345. The pastor now serving this congregation is Brother J. K. Woerner.

SACRED HEART PARISH

One of the first churches organized after Tolleston was annexed to Gary in 1910 was the Sacred Heart Parish. Establishment of this parish began as early as 1913. This is one of the churches which was a beneficiary of the contribution made by the U. S. Steel Corporation towards the founding of five Gary Churches.

From the year 1912 the people of Tolleston had attended St. Hedwig's, Gary, under the pastorate of Rev. Peter Kahellek. In the year 1913 Father Kahellek built a frame church which provided for a school room in the basement.

The Sisters of Blessed Kungunda were engaged to teach School. Sacred Heart Church continued to be a Mission until May 1918, when the Rev. Ignatius Gapczynski was appointed the first resident pastor.

From the time Sacred Heart received its first resident pastor the church in New Chicago was attached to it as a Mission. Father Gayczynski also erected a convent in 1919.

In February 1920 the Rev. Theophil Chemma was appointed pastor and remained until July 1925. His successor was the Rev. Julian Doktor who erected a new combination church and school in 1929. Shortly after the completion of this work the Rev. John Wroblewski was appointed pastor and served until April 1932. His Successor, the Rev. Anthony Nadolny was in charge from April 1932 until July 1939, when, because of his illness, an acting pastor was appointed in the person of the Rev. Casimer Moskwinski, who succeeded Father Nadolny at the time of his death, May 1940. The Rev. Louis Michalski followed and he was succeeded by the present pastor, the Rev. Wencel Karp. Father Karp is presently assisted by the Rev. Walter Mastey.

Sacred Heart Parish numbers more than 500 families and is increasing as the years go on. The parochial School totals approximately 300 pupils. Plans are in the making to erect new buildings

to accomodate new pupils, more Sisters and better living quarters for all engaged in the work around the parish.

We feel that from its inception, the Sacred Heart Parish has been a great influence in the community and has given Tolleston men and woman who have been outstanding, loyal to their God, a credit to this area and their community.

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Probably the latest church organized in the Tolleston area is the Calvary Lutheran Church. Sunday School work was begun in Gary Heights by Bethlehem Lutheran Church in 1940. The congregation was organized as Calvary Lutheran Church of the Augustana Lutheran Church in June, 1947. The first deacons were J. C. Knudson, Serge Nelson, Andrew Luttinen and Wilson Rhoads. Trustees elected were Wayne Henry, Ragnar Overberg, Erick Johanson, Willis Hill, George Bennett and Marvin Snyder.

Services were conducted by the Rev. Bernard Spong of Bethlehem Lutheran Church at Washington School at 13th and Wright Street until Nov. 1949 at which time the Rev. J. Clemmons Peterson became the first full time pastor of the parish. This congregation completed its parsonage in 1950 and is now planning the erection of its first unit building on West 11th at Willard Street.



TOLLESTONS FIRST SCHOOLS

Once upon a time, there was an Engineering School opened by a Vander Naillen, a french mathematician. This was about 1866. In December 1869 the founder moved to the city of Chicago transferring to that place his school interests. The site of this school was later known as the Tolleston Gun Club.

The first Tolleston School was built in 1865. Part of this building is still standing at 1925 W. 10th Place. John Miller bought it from the township.

The next school was a two story building on 10th Avenue across from the present Wonder Bakery. Mr. Charles Kunert was the owner, according to a daughter, Mrs. Frank Borman. Later it was used as a storehouse and still later it was known as Ward's house. The only source of information to be had was gleaned from those who attended this school at that time. The late Mr. Bill Kunert said that he had a teacher by the name of Dr. Till-etson. Mr. Fred Kirchhoff recalls Rev. Wunderlich and Mr. Winslow as his teachers. This was verified by Mr. H. Rutz who also attended. Mr. Kirchhoff remembers vividly the march from the old school to the new one on Roosevelt Street. Mr. Rutz had to walk that distance in wooden shoes after coming from 20th and Taft because his boots were being repaired. One person, who is mentioned often in connection with the school is Mr. F. Truex, who served as principal and teacher in both schools. At some time the school had four rooms, later it went down to two rooms.

The new school was built about 1879, on Roosevelt Street. The first ones to serve in this building were Mr. Truex, Mr. Church, Rev. Wunderlich, Mr. Hahn, Inez Gibson, Miss Woods, Minnie Chapman, Miss Pattee and Miss Brown.

Another familiar name to the Tolleston people is Mr. Henry Seeger who taught the upper

grades while Minnie Rehder had the primary grades. Mr. Seeger was the husband of Mrs. Henrietta Borman. Mr. Seegers has the distinction of organizing a night school in 1890. He served from 1888 to 1891.

If reports are correct, the next principal was Mr. Kern. Dr. Avery is mentioned too. Grace Harding was still teaching when Mr. Wm. Gallagher became principal in 1894.

Dr. F. A. Malmstone was principal during the time the change was made from the frame building to the beautiful brick structure, the Beveridge school. He came in 1904. The building was started in 1905, occupied in 1906. Miss Diedel taught the lower grades, while Dr. Malmstone had the upper ones, including the 9th, using the two buildings. Others serving during that period were Mr. Mundell, Miss Carrie Seeberger, who only recently retired from Froebel, Miss Elsa Wettengel, principal of West Pulaski school, and in the retiring group this year, recalled the days she taught

at Beveridge at Tolleston, before Tolleston was annexed to the city. This took place in 1910 when it was included in the Gary School System, the late Prof. William A. Wirt being the Superintendent of Schools. Dr. Malmstone accepted the department of Biology in the High School of Great Falls, Montana in 1909.

One person who deserves much credit for the work done in Beveridge School is Miss Etta Henderson. For thirty years she served as an educator and principal, spending most of that time at Tolleston. Although not living in Tolleston now, her name is often mentioned. She resigned in 1941, and was succeeded by Miss Grace Foster, who is now the very efficient Principal of the "Beveridge School."

Dr. F. A. Malmstone recalls the naming of "Beveridge School."

A point of interest in the naming of the new school, "Beveridge School" is significant. The Trustee came to school and asked the teachers' opinion what to name the new building viz. "Washing-



Tolleston (Beveridge) School—1889: Faculty: Seated—Mr. Truex, Principal; School Trustees Mr. F. Scheunemann, Mr. Hacker; Miss Brown; Miss Chapman and Miss Paterson. Reading from left to right top row: Dick Woodke; William Ziemer; Hattie Kendt, Emma Konrad, Minnie Konrad and Eddie Harms. 2nd. row: left to right: Blanche Stewart, Lizzie Diedel, Ida Schmidt, Louise Runge, Emma Kriewitz, Hattie Piswe, Lizzie Hacker. 3rd row: Emma Schmidt, Minnie Woldt, (unknown), Molly Boldt, Anna Saager, Ida Henke, Lizzie Kendt, Bertha Saager, Hulda Schuenemann. 4th row: Emma Boldt, Minnie Zarndt, Tilly Diedel, Minnie Saager, Mary Lentz, Minnie Lentz, Martha Zorn, Minnie Zorn, Rickie Woldt. 5th row: Carl Runge, Emil Henke, Herman Lentz, Fred Woldt, August Hacker, Hugo Kendt and Fred Doege.



St. John's Lutheran School — 1892 (?) — Faculty: left to right top row: Ida Henke, Alma Koepke, next two unknown, Minnie Saager and Minnie Konrad. 2nd. row: left to right: Emelia Seehase, Anna Saager, Bartha Jahnke, Minnie Lentz, Emma Kuhlman, Anna Zarndt and Emma Schmidt. 3rd. row left to right: Tina Jaeger, Emma Laderer, Emma Henke, Rickey Woldt, Alma Scheuneman, Anna Voss, Ida Kuhlman and Clara Kunert. Boys standing: Herman Kriewitz, Ernest Piske, Albert Lempke, Frank Weyhe. Seated left to right: Emil Ploth, Emil Henke, Carl Runge, Fred Doege, Albert Doege, Fred Woldt and Louis Karsten. 5th row: Fred Papke, Frank Schmidt, Berthold Woldt, Louis Doege, Emil Kaske, Herman Saager and John Zarndt. 6th row: Fred Blom, Theodore Seehase, Robert Zarndt, Albert Runge, Walter Scheuneman, Henry Piske, Walter Kundrt, Ben Schmidt and Ben Doege, Augusta Stimfig, Francis Woldt, Ida Rump, Clara Henke and Bertha Piske. Boys standing, right: Louis Weyhe, Herman Braun, Arthur Kundrt and Max Schmidt. Girls standing, right: Bertha Schneider, Josephine Stimfig, Hattie Peters, Tillie Jahnke, Bertha Frank, Helen Frank, Tillie Reybein and Augusta Ebert.

SCHOOLS (Continued)

ton" "Jefferson" "Franklin" etc. Previously Senator Albert Beveridges' Biograph had been read as morning exercises. When a vote was taken, the children voted unanimously for "Beveridge" instead of the earlier Statesmen. The Trustee was pleased and sanctioned the vote. All grades were taught, including the 9th grade using the two buildings. Sept. 1909 the 12th grade was added with a staff of 6 teachers and a school board.

TOLLESTON SCHOOL 1910-'51

As early as August, 1910, only shortly after Tolleston was annexed to the city of Gary, the vision of Dr. William A. Wirt prompted the purchase of the sandy waste on 17th Avenue and Taney Street for the erection of a school. Although the section of the Steel City did not grow as rapidly as the newer sections of it, more acres were added in 1916 to the school site south of Tol-

leston Park, extending the area from 17th and Taney east to Ellsworth and south to 15th Avenue, and bringing its area to 14.683 acres as a natural setting for the "still-in-the-dream-stage" structure.

But World War I intervened to keep the vision of school grounds pulsating with active young bodies from being realized. Once the war was over, however, plans were pressed forward to erect the building now referred to as the West Building, and in 1922 ground was broken for that center of lively activity—Tolleston School.

The cost of this original structure, with an area of 8,833 square feet, was \$83,842.57.

Mr. H. S. Jones, tall, angularly handsome student of history, became the first principal of the school when it opened its doors in September, 1923. To teach under his guidance the 238 students from kindergarten through the fourth

grade, he had the tight pegtop skirted help of Mrs. Mabel McCracken in the kindergarten, Miss Nelle Ryan in the first grade, Miss Lita Austen in the second grade, and Mrs. Esther Pearson in the third and fourth grades. Miss Clarabelle Black taught physical education. Then, as for many years afterwards, Mrs. Mary Pisor was the visiting teacher, feared by all truants. Efficient Mr. Nick Barbosa kept the building neat, clean, and heated during the cold winter months.

"High Standing" Jones's promotion to supervisor of visual education brought gracious, kindly Miss Lola E. Percy to head the school in February, 1924. Additional grades were added and new buildings were necessitated. Already in 1923, two portables went up just to the east and north of the original building. By June, 1925 nine grades were receiving instruction at the Tolleston School. In 1926 the boiler house was erected. It was placed in the center of the school grounds, for, in the fertile brain of Dr. Wirt, the Tolleston plant was eventually to consist of a large central structure which was to be built around the boiler house and to connect the East Building with the West Building. In 1927 the east wing of the proposed plant was erected to take care of the ever-increasing enrollment.

During the Christmas holidays, of 1934, dignified, ladylike Lola E. Percy passed away suddenly and quietly in her home town. Roachdale, Ind. The community shook itself to recover from the shock of the loss of so inspiring a school leader, and found itself with the present purposeful educator, Mr. James W. Standley, at its head.

Under Mr. Standley's progressive direction, the freshman class of 1934 became the sophomore class of 1935, the junior class of 1936, and the first graduating class of 1937. The 92 graduates were led down the aisle for the baccalaureate and commencement exercises by Margaret Stepita,

SCHOOLS (Continued)

valedictorian and Vera Roski, salutatorian. As their class officers, the Seniors chose Richard Fulwider for President, Casimer Norwaish for Vice-President, and John Klym for Secretary-Treasurer.

With the increase in enrollment and grade levels, in spite of the depression years and tax difficulties, an addition of a three story annex, consisting of three rooms, was added to the East Building in 1934. The financial burden of construction was in a large measure alleviated by the use of W. P. A. workers and funds.

World War II forced the placing of 31 gold stars on the honor roll of servicemen graduates of Tolleston School.

Year by year the Tolleston community waxed and flourished and in 1948 classrooms were again needed. Building was begun on the ultra-modern south wing to the East Building, with its many-windowed, light and airy rooms.

Meanwhile the duties of administering the area increased to such an extent that Tolleston School received an assistant principal. Tall, manly Dr. George W. Brown came to assist principal Standley in September, 1948. He had assured a warm place for himself in the hearts of the people of the region when city-wide administrative changes called him to duty at Emerson School in December, 1950. Mr. Henry A. Rowland, mustached and eye-twinkling, has successfully filled the position of assistant principal since that time.

Meanwhile the plant itself changed face. New land-scaping brought out the beauty of the old brick structures and enhanced the new. A football field in verdant magnificence graces the northwest end of the school grounds. Bulldozers have uprooted the brush and trees to make way for a smooth parking lot just south of that field. Fifty-eight teachers now serve the school and the community.

Tolleston School, never static,

must keep pace with the needs and desire of its dynamic community.

HISTORY OF WASHINGTON SCHOOL

Back about 1928 the community in West Gary was beginning to build up. Their first need was a school house.

This school was built in 1930 at the approximate cost of \$24,000. It was a plain frame building located at 13th. and Wright street, so it received the name 13th Ave. School. Several years later this was changed to George Washington School. The building consisted of four rooms, but only three were in operation. The enrollment was between 50 and 75. Three teachers compromised the staff, Mrs. Williams, Miss Plant and Mrs. Jacobs.

By 1931 the P. T. A. had organized and received its charter. People such as Mrs. Carr, Mrs. O'Dell and Mrs. Quillen were its leaders.

As time has progressed we find in 1949 Washington was taking a large step forward. They had added several more classes from kindergarten thru the fifth grade. A new brick ultra modern building was added. This year another grade

(the sixth) was added. The grounds around the school are being adjusted as to the pupils needs. By fall a baseball diamond and a football field will be added. Washington P. T. A. is still one of the most active in Gary.

The teaching staff now consists of eight teachers, (one head teacher, since we are still under the principalship of Tolleston). Our enrollment has increased to about 350. With the construction going on in West Gary this number is rapidly moving upward.

TOLLESTON'S FIRST GRADUATE

In the late 80's the 2 story, 2 room school on 10th Avenue near Roosevelt Street, across from the present Wonder Bakery was abandoned, and a new 4 room square frame building was built on Roosevelt street just north of what is the present 13th Avenue.

Rev. Wunderlich used one of the upstairs class rooms to teach the older children German and prepare them for confirmation in the Lutheran Church, along with other subjects. Miss Pattee of Hobart, taught primary, Mr. Hahn was principal and Miss Brown taught intermediate. In



Back: left to right, George Behnke, Louis Meyers; Albert Scheuneman; Al Machaley, Bill Kunert; Dr. Frank McMichail; Geo. Erickson. Front: Paul Conrad, Carly., Frank Kliminski, Denny Currans, Bill Remus., Hans Mettler.

GRADUATE (Continued)

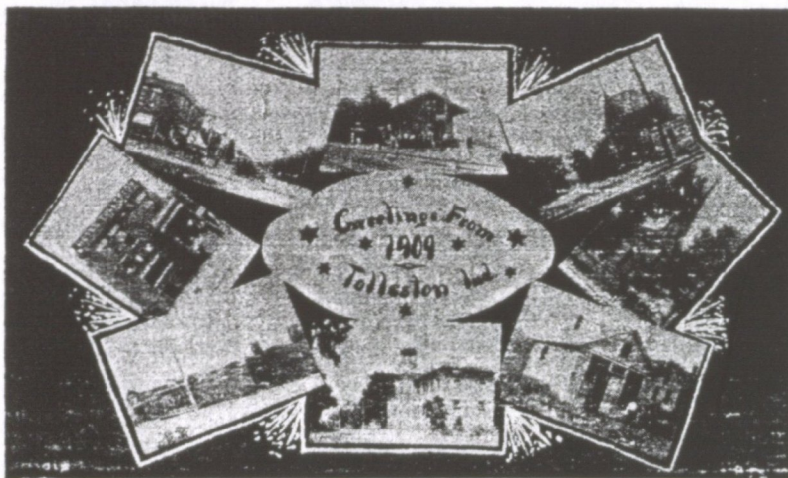
those days the school was not graded 1st to 8th grade, but from 1st to 6th Reader. The custom was that as soon as the children completed their religious catechism and became confirmed in the German Lutheran Church, they discontinued school.

Not until 1894 after the late Wm. S. Gallagher became principal of the 2 class room Public School in Tolleston at the present site of Beveridge School, was the grading system used and new, modern methods of learning instituted. That spring Matilda Elois Diedel was the first and only 8th grade graduate of the Tolleston school system. August

Conrad induced to provide for and arrange for a non-commissioned high school. That fall Miss Lulu Johnson of Hobart came to live with the Gallagher family. Mrs. Gallagher being her sister. Miss Johnson had attended one semester of her freshman year in the Hobart high school. She and Miss Diedel were the first high school students in Tolleston School. The former left Tolleston before the end of the school year, leaving Matilda alone in the class. Mr. Gallagher took special interest in her and let her progress as rapidly as she was capable of doing. She later taught primary grade at Beveridge School—her last term being under the Wirt System in 1909.



First Parsonage in Tolleston. (appearing on picture are Theo. Kosche, town clerk, and family.)



THE SAXON CLUB

The first Transylvanian Saxon Sick Benefit Society, Branch 26 of Gary, Indiana was organized on September 11th, 1909, primarily as a group of Saxon emigrants whose intentions were to mutually support one another in their newly established community in times of need.

Since its organization this group has assisted many in times of illness and death. Not only have they become worthy American citizens, but have also contributed greatly to the community in which they reside.

As the organization grew, need for Club Rooms, for its members and the community grew also, whereupon the "Old Saxon Hall" was erected in the early 1900's where members and friends met for many an evening of "Gemuetlichkeit." This was located at 1625 W. 15th Ave., where the Saxon Club remained until the purchase of Tolleston's choice property in 1940 at the South West corner of 11th and Roosevelt St. and converted to use as the "Saxon Club."

Officers elected at the Charter meeting on September 11, 1909 were:

Pres.: Karl Frenzel
V. Pres: George Schuster
Secy.: George Schaser
Fin. Secy.: Michael Giertscher
Treas.: Martin Vasch
Trustees: John Binder, John Taub, George Schneider

Present day officers are as follows:

Pres.: Stephen D. Kellner
V. Pres.: Andrew G. Markel
Secy.: Andrew J. Binder
Treas.: John Guist
Fin. Secy.: Michael Kloss
Grand Lodge Secy.: Michael Urschel
Trustees: Michael Gottschling, Paul Guist, Peter Helwig, Julius G. Schiller, Fred Untch
Sick Comm.: Andrew Guist, John Helwig

TOLLESTON COMMUNITY CLUB

The Tolleston Community Club was organized February 7, 1919. The club was organized for the purpose of carrying on work and study, or benefit to the community, of promoting a greater interest in civic and welfare work in our own locality and offering an opportunity for study and advancement to the women of Tolleston.

The charter members of the club were Mrs. Viola Cook, Mrs. J. W. Whitlow, Anna M. Wilson, Mrs. Rose Wold, Mrs. Roy Story, Mrs. Alvina Grahel, Mrs. May Lucas, Mrs. J. J. Roberts, Mrs. Myrtle Whitaker, Mrs. T. E. Leeka, Mrs. Carrie Stebbens, Mrs. Frank Dewey, Mrs. Chas. Phillips, Mrs. Hortense Heather, Mrs. W. J. Williams and Mrs. E. E. Fifield.

The club members met in the homes of members until October 1927 when the Tolleston Library was opened. They then met in the club rooms.

GARY SPORTSMEN CLUB

In about September, 1932 delegates from the Oak's A. C., Gary Orials, Badgers A. C., Comets and the Tolleston Braves met in the Taney Hall at 10th Place and Taney Street, where they discussed the possibility of organizing one strong club for the Tolleston Community.

In January, 1933 after several months of meeting and discussing, the organization known as the Gary Sportsmen Club was organized through the efforts of such men as Joseph Sum, Paul Petrovich, John Osika, Charles Puzas, Andrew Unetich, Joseph Kosky and etc.

In March, 1933, the Gary Sportsmen Club was incorporated by the State of Indiana and was granted a charter as a non-profitable organization. The Sportsmen Club dues, due to the depression at that time, were ten cents a month. The club signed up 350 members and operated at the Taney Hall at Taney Place. Within six months the organization felt that they

should have permanent headquarters and rented the entire 1st floor of the building located on the southeast corner of 11th Avenue and Marshall Street. Baseball, Basketball, Football and Softball teams were sponsored and uniforms bought. The Club's rent then increased to such a large sum that they had to look for new headquarters and they rented the store and rooms located at 2781 West 10th Place.

In two years time the organi-

zation created a building fund of \$1,800.00 and bought the property, the club's present location, 1363 Taft Street and proceeded to build the present headquarters. Members donated their time and help finance the building to pay it off in cash. The building supervision was under Stanley Gavalek.

In the meantime, the Sportsmen Club continued their work in athletics and community service, won several championships in basketball and baseball and were



Southwest corner 11th & Taft St., 1870 (Miss Bertha Sommer)



Dietrich's Bakery Wagon, delivering the bread in Tolleston from the bakery in Hammond. Appearing in the picture is Ray Fowler and Ed. Jordan.

SPORTSMEN (Continued)

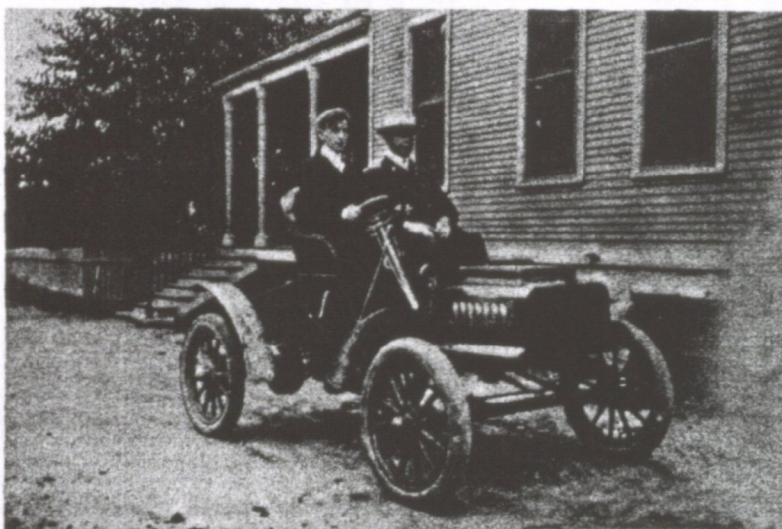
recognized as a leading organization in the city of Gary. Prior to World War II, the Sportsmen Club decided that funds should be created for a new building as a community center for Tolleston. At the end of World War II, membership as a whole by acclamation approved of a plan to erect the building now located at 15th Avenue and Ellsworth Place, which houses 16 bowling alleys, a beautiful taproom and large entertaining room, as a monument

to the Veterans of World War II.

Very few members participate in sports but the organization still sponsors teams of younger men of the community. The Sportsmen's Club still have better plans for the community and now have a new building fund of which they hope, in the very near future to build a new home with better accommodations, not only for the club members, but for the community.



Martha Street, east of 2nd. Street (present site of Wonder Baking Co.)



B. Martin town marshal and Charles Rehbein.

TIDBITS

FROM NEWSPAPER EAST TOLLESTON ADVANCE

Friday, Jan. 1, 1897—Not an idle man in town. There is work for everyone. The railroads have increased their forces. More buildings were erected in Tolleston the past year than during any five years since the founding of the town.

December 26, 1896—Ad appearing in this paper.

H. Seegers' General Store
We Handle

Groceries, Dry Goods, Hardware, Flour and Feed, Paints and Oils, Boots and Shoes, Stoves and Ranges Oil Burners, etc. We also carry at all times a large stock of Builders Materials and Mechanics Tools. Free delivery of all goods purchased from us.

Store and Warehouse—Corner First Street and M. C. Railroad, Tolleston

January 1, 1897—Ad appearing in this paper.

MEAT MARKET

Frank Borman, Prop.

Dealer in all kinds of meat, wholesale and retail. Highest market prices paid for LIVESTOCK. Free delivery to regular customers. We candidly admit that our meats are not all fresh—Some of them are Salt.

July 16, 1897—We are all busy just now. Blueberries are being picked by the bushel.

It was hot in the superlative degree last week.

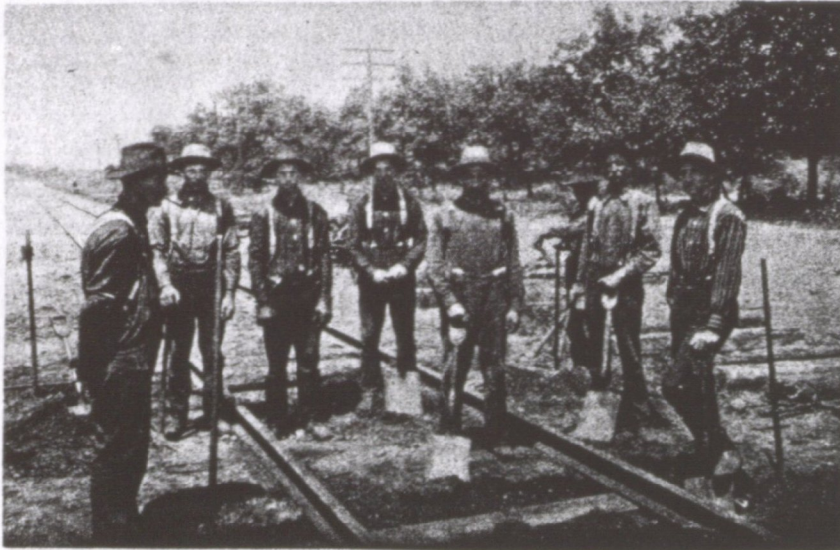
April 23th 1904—Mr. August Conrad won nomination for Trustee of Calumet Township.

He received 78 votes.

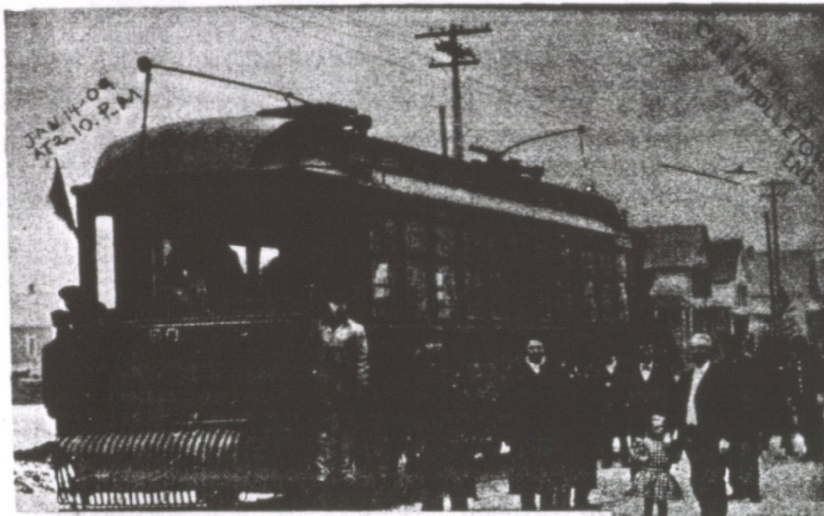
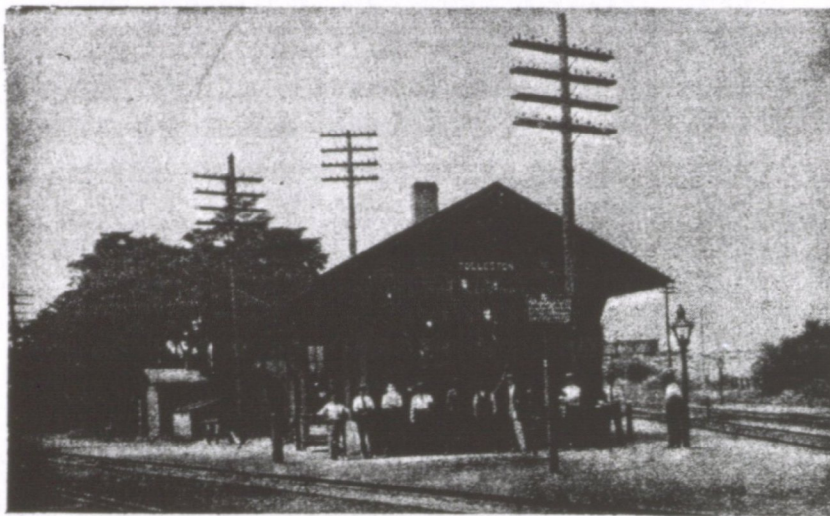
George Behnke received 62 votes.

Herman Rutz received 20 votes.

Mrs. M. M. Lucy started to operate the post office March 14, 1904 in her home at Roosevelt St. and M. C. tracks.



Section Gang — Lake Shore and Michigan Southern: Reading from left to right: Charles Fettman, Foreman; Herman Kriewitz, William Dettman; Fred Henke, William Woldt Jr.; Frank Peter and Edwin Galster.



RAILROADS

The laying of the track for the Michigan Central Railroad running thru Tolleston from Detroit to Chicago was completed in 1850. A station was located on Deep River, south of the Calumet and named "Lake Station." The steam whistle was heard for the first time where had been the scream of the eagle and sharp notes of water fowl, and the people of the county soon ascertained that they were in close connection, by rail and wire communication with the Atlantic seaboard. It was the beginning of the era of western railroads. By means of this first railroad some facilities were afforded for the sending of produce and bringing in merchandise. The "Joliet Cut Off" was built in 1854 and stations at Ross and Dyer were established.

The Pittsburg, Fort Wayne and Chicago, which is the Pennsylvania Railroad now, was completed in 1858 and the principal station for this area was Hobart. Increased facilities for transportation enabled the farming community to realize more for their produce and obtain building materials easier than in former years, and improved buildings and fences and barns and stables were the result.

THE EFFECT OF RAILROADS ON PRIMITIVE LIFE:

The early development of Lake County was mainly outside of the rather unsightly Calumet region, but as the northern portions were in the direct line of travel between the East, Chicago and the Mississippi Valley, the first railroads came into that region, and thereafter its greater improvement was assured. Of necessity, from its geographical position, every railroad entering Chicago, which in 1850 was just commencing its remarkable growth, if coming from the East or Southeast, must cross the northwestern corner of Indiana. And rapidly they came after a beginning had been made. So, when the families in the central part of the county heard far up among the northern sand hills the shrill voice

RAILROADS (Continued)

of the steam engine, they knew that a new life of agriculture was at hand. But it was to be some fifteen years before they were to receive the direct benefits of the new era. Theirs being only reflected from such railroad stations of the northern section.

The transformation of the interior was, therefore, more gradual than that of the Calumet region, which had four lines in operation before the first one touched the life of Crown Point and central Lake County. Even religion felt the stimulus.

Changes of modes of living, in dress, in furniture and then in farming implements were not, of course, instantaneous, but they came rapidly. In the earliest years of settlement, and through all the pioneer period, oxen were quite generally used as draft animals. They were on almost every farm; they drew the plows, the wagons, the harrows, the sleds. They were on the roads drawing the heavy loads to the market towns. They were strong, patient, hardy, quite safe, not taking fright and running away and could live on rough food with little shelter; but generally they were slow. On the road an ox team did well to make three miles an hour.

But as the modern railroad era opened, and changes in modes of agriculture and living took place, horses for farm work and road work to the farms as early as 1855, and for all the modern improvements that followed horses were found to be more serviceable. So in some neighborhoods in Lake County, the yoke was removed from the necks of the oxen as early as 1855.

INDUSTRIES

In the very early days of Tolleston the men for the most part worked on the railroad. at the Sand Pit and at the Ice House at Clark station. However a Piano Stool Factory was located here for a short time as was also a Paint and Varnish Factory.



Front row, left to right: George Behnke, Sr.; Paul Conrad; Denny Currans; Curly; Frank Kleminski; Hans Mettler. Middle row: Carl Kunert; Albert Scheuneman; Irvin Elser Sr.; Al Makaly; Leo Currans; Dora Luck. Back Row: Unknown; Louis Meyer; unknown; Teddy Seehase; Bill Kunert; Oscar Burch; Gust Elser; Arthur Kunert; Charlie Luck.



Tenth Avenue and Roosevelt St. as it appeared in 1880. (Scheuneman's store with early Tolleston school in background).



FIRE DEPARTMENT

Tolleston had only a volunteer Fire Department until it was absorbed by the City of Gary in 1910. Up until that time the Town Hall, Jail, and Fire Department were all combined in a building located at what is now Roosevelt and 12th Avenue, the present site of the Tolleston Fire Department.

FIRST BAKERY

Max Hirsh had the first commercial bakery in Tolleston which was later bought by Wonder Bakery and is still located at the original site.

THE HIGHLIGHTS OF SUMMER "FOURTH OF JULY PICNICS"

The Fourth of July was a big day for everybody. Annual church picnic with school children parading in the white suits and girls in their starched dresses to the picnic grove on 9th Ave. between Taft and Chase. Home-made ice cream (made by the ladies of the church the day before) was the thing of the day. Another annual picnic for some years was held in Conrad's Grove with more home-made ice cream and programs endings up with square dancing. Conrad's Grove is now Garfield Street and Michigan Central Tracks.

PARKS

Tolleston had no park until about 1916 when the "Old Lentz Farm" was purchased by the City of Gary and made into what is now "Tolleston Park." Previous to that there were numerous picnic groves where churches and other organizations had their outings.



SCHOOL NOTES

Commencement Exercises held in Kunerts Hall, May 20, 1909—tickets 25c. The eleven graduates of 8th grade were: Cora Lucey, Roscoe Kennedy, Willard Amstein, Meta Williams, Ida Mendenhall, Lucretia Morar, Mamie Gordon, Judith Benson, Martha Borman, Florence Crandall, all residents of Tolleston with exception of Willard Amstein who lived in Clark Station.

May 20, 1910—Beveridge High School graduated one pupil—Miss Wilma Gallagher. Herman C. Rutz was president of the school board. Herman W. Uecker was Secretary and Albert G. Koepke treasurer. LeGrand T. Meyer was school board attorney.

January 1, 1897—"Christmas was celebrated by the pupils of the public school on Christmas Day. A stage erected at one end of

the grammar room was nicely decorated with the National Colors and a fine tree. The program was the best without exception ever witnessed in Tolleston. The work of Miss Matilda Diedel deserved the highest praise. Her impersonation of the different characters assigned to her elicited the applause of all present, while Charlie Wahli as the "Little Deutscher" and "Old Man Schneider" kept every face wrinkled with laughter. Mr. Charles Whitlock as Santa Claus acted in his usual fine style and distributed presents and sweetmeats to all the pupils present. The large crowd left the building all greatly pleased.

Christmas exercises were held in the church as usual, program being exceptionally fine.

INCIDENTALS

Lake Co. 1934-1872
T. Ball

Weather Report—1859

A cold and backward spring.

April 8th to 14th—Snow.

June 5—Very white frost.

June 11th—Frost.

July 4—Light frost. Afterward hot.

July 12th Mercury 104 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Temperature:

July 13th—104

July 15th—105 at noon

July 16th—102 from 12 noon to 5 p.m.

July 17th—100 at 1 p.m.

July 18th—104 at 1 p.m.

In September light frost.

In October hard frost; cold, some snow.





"LANDMARKS"

Do You Remember When—

Everyone went to WICK'S BLACKSMITH SHOP to have their horses shod.

You took your gal to KUNERTS DANCE HALL which was the center of the social activities in the early days.

You bought not only foot plasters but sodas and sundaes at PETERSON'S DRUG STORE when drug stores were truly drug stores.

The kids would slide down-hill on STAFF'S LAND in the wintertime. (Garfield and 10th Place)

The only place to purchase your yard goods was at WINTER'S DRYGOODS STORE.

For a nickel you could go to the NICKELODEON (First Show) known as the "Pastime Theatre" at 2216 W. 10th Ave.

TIDBITS

The following is a copy of a receipt given by Christopher Bor-

man, Sr., to Charles Nagel whom he succeeded as Postmaster:
"October 1, 1878

Received from Charles Nagel, Ex. P. M., postal stamps and postal cards as follows to wit:

10 ct postal stamps	\$5.30
5 ct postal stamps	4.90
3 ct postal stamps	.42
2 ct postal stamps	3.20
1 ct postal stamps	1.45
Total cards	1.25
	<hr/> \$16.52

Albert Borman:

"I might also mention that when the Republicans were in office Charles Kunert was Postmaster and when the Democrats were in office the Post Office was loaded into a clothes basket and delivered to Christopher Borman and I remember my father telling Mr. Kunert that in the event he would win next time he would load the Post Office up in the basket again and returned it to him."

Before there were any churches around here in about 1867, a circuit rider came to the home of Mr. and Mrs. F. Kohlhaase, who lived at about 15th and Rutledge,

to conduct a church service. All the old settlers came and among them Frank Matthies. Also Mr. Christ Gastel with his family and their dog. Mrs. Kohlhaase had a dish of butter standing under the couch. The dog discovered the butter and could be heard licking it during the services. At last Mrs. Kohlhaase could stand it no longer and before the pastor was finished with his sermon, she announced, "Jetzt wollen wir schlieszen" (Now we will close). It was too late however, the butter was gone, and that was the last of that service.





— CONCLUSION —

In-as-much-as the History Committee had less than a month to compile the preceding history of Tolleston, we hereby apologize for any omissions or errors which may have occurred herein.

HISTORY COMMITTEE





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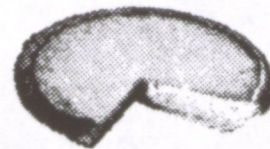
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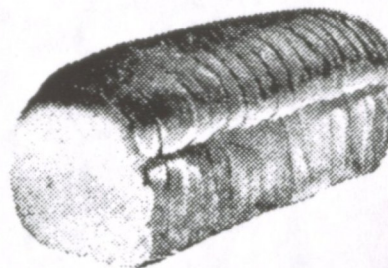
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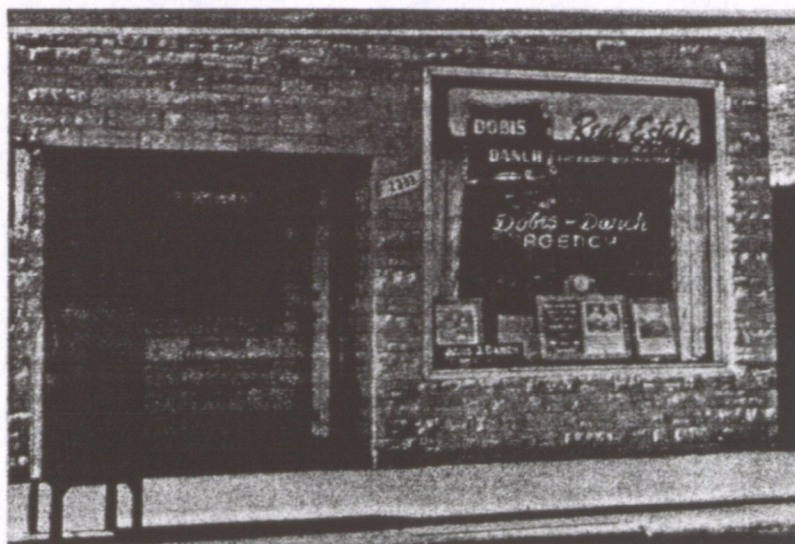
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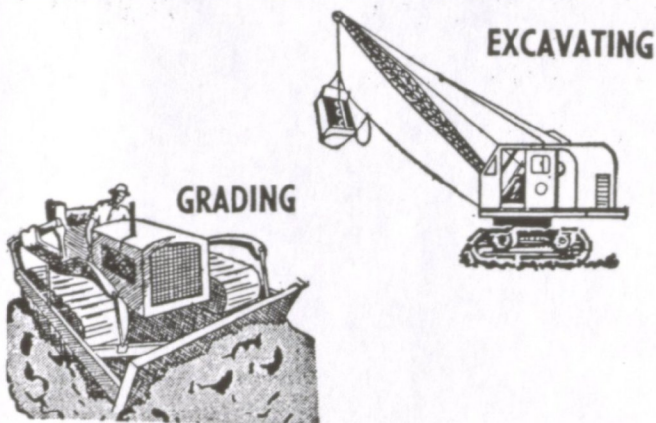


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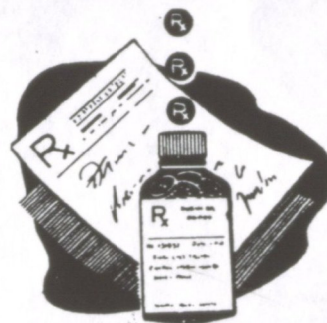
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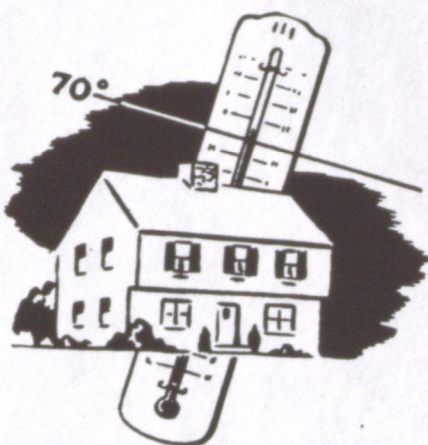
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